

Young Spennymoor give Wycombe hard time

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE were taken out of their stride by the young Northern side Spennymoor today. In the second half it never seemed likely the 7,500 Loakes Park crowd would see their favourites move through to the Amateur Cup fourth round.

Wycombe Wanderers: Bunting; Beck, Pullin; Maharg, Roystone, Lewis; Worley, Horseman, Lowen, Balson, Hodges.

Spennymoor: Utd.: Ellen; Defty, Berryman; Iceton, Joyce, West; Morris, McGeorge, Fawell, Banks, Brown.

Referee: R Smith (Notts).

Spennymoor's speedy teenage inside trio gave the home defence plenty of trouble early on, but the Wycombe backs battled with great determination on the sticky pitch.

Wycombe were lucky to escape in a series of Spennymoor attacks when Bunting saved from McGeorge and Pullin blocked shots from West and Morris on the goal-line.

After fifteen minutes Wycombe went ahead from a penalty. Lowen beat the goalkeeper with a fine header from Hodges' centre and left back Berryman handled on the line to keep out the ball. ROYSTONE scored from the spot.

As Wycombe kept up the pressure Lewis almost scored again with a great shot which Ellen saved well.

Two minutes before half-time, WEST scored for Spennymoor after Iceton had hit the upright with the goalkeeper beaten.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 2, Spennymoor 1.

Spennymoor attacked with great verve in the second half and left winger Brown missed an easy chance when he shot hurriedly with an open goal.

Twice inside left Banks, schoolboy star of Spennymoor's young attack, was foiled by brilliant saves from Bunting.

Eight minutes after half-time Spennymoor deservedly equalised when Fawell nipped between the backs to head in from a free-kick by Berryman.

Goalkeeper Bunting was the

busiest man on the field as United continued to attack, with Fawell, an enterprising and dangerous leader, a constant menace and wing-halves West and Iceton always ready to take a long-range shot at goal.

Horseman missed a chance for Wycombe in a counter attack but both Morris and McGeorge flashed in shots which almost found the mark as Spennymoor tried desperately for the winner.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WAND. 2
SPENNYMOOR 2

WYCOMBE JUST EARN REPLAY

Wycombe 2 Spennymoor 2

AFTER leading for nearly an hour, Wanderers were lucky to claim another chance after a tremendous second half rally by North League contenders Spennymoor United in the only North v. South duel of the Amateur Cup third round.

Wycombe's tough-tackling halves held the nippy Northern forwards well in check in the first half. Skipper Roystone put the home side ahead in the 14th minute from a penalty for hands, and 19 minutes later Lowen deservedly added a second.

But Spennymoor, average age only 20, improved as their strong wing halves, West and Iceton, assumed midfield superiority.

West heartened them with a goal just before half-time and in the second half they attacked with such zest that Wycombe were mostly on the defensive, with forceful Derek Fawell and grammar school boy Ken Banks the stars in Spennymoor's dashing teenage inside trio.

Fawell equalised in the 53rd minute and for their survival in face of repeated attacks Wycombe were largely indebted to reserve goalkeeper Colin Bunting, recalled to the side after many months.